

# Revere Chemical Company

## EPA Region 3

Pennsylvania

Bucks County

Off Route 611

just north of Route 412 in

Nockamixon Township

**EPA ID#** PAD051395499

**8th** Congressional District

**Last Update:**

August 2002

**Other Names:** None

## Current Site Status

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing the cleanup of the Revere Chemical Co. site. The only outstanding step is to place restrictions on the property's deed limiting its future uses. All construction activities at the site were completed in the fall of 1998. This was documented by the signing of the preliminary close-out report on November 2, 1998. Groundwater and stream corridor monitoring will continue and quarterly inspections of the security system, the cap and the stormwater management system will be conducted. A semi-annual inspection report will be submitted to the EPA including photos and copies of the inspection reports.

## Site Description

The 113-acre Revere Chemical Co. facility, located near Routes 611 and 412 in Pennsylvania, was an acid, metal, and plating waste

processing operation also suspected of accepting organic solvent waste. While the plant operated, wastes containing chromic acid, copper sulfate, and other heavy metals, as well as sulfuric acid and ammonia, were stored on site in unlined earthen lagoons. A U.S. District Court ordered the facility to close in 1969 for causing contamination of a tributary of Rapp Creek. The company abandoned full and empty drums, waste-filled lagoons, and piles of solid waste. In 1970, the Pennsylvania Department of Health treated and removed 3 million gallons of liquid wastes. About 520 people reside within a mile of the site, with the closest home being less than 1/4 mile away. There are approximately 650 private wells within three miles of the site, the nearest one being 1,000 feet away. The area surrounding the site includes recreational streams, forests, fields, and State game lands. The Delaware River is seven miles from the site and is a water supply source for Philadelphia.

Soils on the site are contaminated with benzoic acid, and heavy metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), the chemical components of solvents, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), the byproducts of petroleum. The surface water and sediments contain some of the metals detected in site soil contaminants. Potential health threats include accidental ingestion, dermal contact with contaminated soils, and inhalation of dust from contaminated soils. The shallow groundwater has been found to contain VOCs.

### **Site Responsibility**

This site is being addressed through a combination of Federal, State, and potentially responsible parties' actions.


### **NPL Listing History**

Our country's most serious, uncontrolled, or abandoned hazardous waste sites can be cleaned using federal money. To be eligible for federal cleanup money, a site must be put on the National Priorities List. This site was proposed to the list on September 18, 1985 and formally added to the list July 22, 1987.

## **Threats and Contaminants**

Soils on the site are contaminated with benzoic acid, heavy metals, VOCs, and PAHs. The surface water and sediments on the site

contain low levels of some of the metals detected in site soils. The shallow groundwater has been found to contain VOCs. Potential health threats include accidental ingestion, dermal contact with contaminated soils, and inhalation of dust from contaminated soils.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

## Cleanup Progress

In 1970-71, the Pennsylvania Department of Health consolidated drummed materials in the lagoons, treated them with lime, pumped out approximately 3,000,000 gallons of waste, and then removed them. About 1,000 empty drums were crushed and buried on site. In 1984, an EPA emergency team removed 22 drums of waste chromic acid and excavated 30 cubic yards of sludge containing copper and chromium. All materials were sent to an EPA-approved hazardous waste facility. In 1991 EPA ordered a group of the potentially responsible parties, PRPs, to remove 600 drums which were excavated during remedial investigation field work, and also required soil erosion and sedimentation control at the site.

Only a group of the PRPs, known as the Revere Steering Committee, is addressing contamination. The committee is comprised of the following companies: AT&T Corporation, Inc. (currently Lucent Technologies), AT&T Global Information Solutions, Inc. (currently NCR Corporation), Carpenter Technology Corporation, General Electric Company, GTE Operations Support Incorporated (as successor to the interests of GTE Products Corporation), International Business Machines Corporation, Square D Company (on behalf of Yates Industries), and Unisys Corporation.

Removal of solid waste & debris, and additional drum removal was completed in the Spring of 1996. Remedial action work plans for the ex-situ vacuum extraction and the preconstruction activities for the cap were submitted in April 1997. Field work for the ex-situ vacuum extraction of the contaminated soil was completed in July 1997. The remedial action report was approved in September 1997. Phase I of the cap work was completed in September 1997. On-site construction

activities for Phase II began in April 1998. All on-site construction was completed in October 1998 and was documented by the signing of the Preliminary Closeout Report on November 2, 1998.

## Contacts

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Detailed public files (Administrative record) on EPA's actions and decisions for this site can be examined at the following locations:

Nockamixon Township Building

Center Hill and Lake Warren Roads

Ferndale, PA, 18921

610-847-5058

U.S. EPA Region III

6th Floor Docket Room

1650 Arch Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103

215-814-3157

Please call for an appointment.